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*mys* near *costilatus*; *Anostira* Leidy, *Trionyx*; a form much like *Plastomenus lachrymans* and a genus near to *Compsemys* Leidy, perhaps the *Apholidemys* of Pomel. Of fishes, *Pappichthys* is abundant, mingled with the marine genera *Myliobates*, *Phyllodes* and *Squalodonts*.

The above lists present a mixture of the Laramie, Wasatch and Bridger fauna of Western America. It is remarkable that of the first named, only those of Tertiary character have been found by Dr. Lemoine, since the numerous types of *Dinosauria*, are entirely wanting.—*E. D. Cope*.

#### GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.<sup>1</sup>

LAKE NYASSA.—Mr. H. B. Cotterill has recently returned to England, after an absence of nearly two years, during which he explored the Nyassa lake and also made the journey from its northern end to Dar-es-Salaam (on the coast twenty-five miles south of Zanzibar), a distance of 350 miles, passing through a region never before visited by Europeans.

From a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, on the 25th of March, and a lecture delivered at the Society of Arts, on May 27th, and reported in the *Times*, we learn that the principal object of his journey was to endeavor to plant in Central Africa, a germ of legitimate commerce and thus assist in the destruction of the slave trade. Mr. Cotterill sketched the suppression of this traffic on the coast line, and stated that the word "suppression" exactly expressed the circumstances of the case. This trade is now scotched but by no means dead. Were the pressure put upon the trade now relaxed, slavery would again revive. Foot-holds and centres for civilizing influences in the interior must be secured before it can receive its death-blow. The advantages which the Nyassa offered for commencing beneficial influences upon the interior were, that there existed a great lake settlement; the accessibility of the Nyassa both by land and water, as compared with other lakes; the magnificent water-way supplied by the Nyassa, itself, to the very heart of the continent, and the commanding position that any settlement at the north end of the Nyassa would hold. He found the northern portions of the lake far more beautiful and populous than the granite country of the south. Ivory is in abundance. There was evidence of the presence of precious metals. Cotton grew wild and was also cultivated by the natives. Sugar cane, grains of various kinds, yams, bananas and the like grew luxuriantly. The region was as healthy as India when once a person had become acclimatized.

His journey to the coast was made in company with Capt. Elton, late British Consul at Mozambique, and three friends. From the northern end of the lake a flat marshy country extends towards the southern end of Tanganyika which was said to be

<sup>1</sup> Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.

about ten or twelve days distant. After a few days march they reached a great plain bounded by a range of mountains called Kondi, running from the eastern side of the lake to the north-west. Several rivers intersect the plain running towards the Nyassa and it is a country of remarkable beauty and fertility. By a gradual ascent the height of 6000 feet above the sea was reached. Finally, passing through forests of gigantic bamboos, they crossed the Kondi range at a height of 8800 feet above the sea, and found themselves on a great plateau 7000 feet high called Uwanji, a splendid cattle country. Here they soon came to Merere's town. From this point other plains intersected by many streams could be seen. They suffered much during the remainder of the journey from scarcity of food and shortly before reaching the Ujiji caravan route, 350 miles from Bagamoyo, Captain Elton, who had been failing rapidly, died.

The rest of the party arrived safely at Zanzibar, after a journey of four months and a half from Livingstonia. A full account of the journey, under the title "Researches and Adventures among the Lakes and Mountains of Eastern Africa," will soon be published.

A direct road from Dar-es-Salaam to the lake has already been begun at the expense of one or two private persons. The Royal Geographical Society has decided to dispatch a carefully-organized expedition commanded by Mr. Keith Johnston to explore this region, and contemplates pushing their explorations to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, a further distance of 190 miles. The expedition is expected to leave England early in November. Some weeks will be spent in scientific investigation in the coast regions near Zanzibar. A geologist has been appointed as assistant and second in command to Mr. Johnston. The route to Livingstonia, the Scotch Mission settlement at the southern end of Nyassa, is being improved by the opening of the rivers Zambesi and Shire by the Portuguese to steam navigation, and the making of a road for seventy miles around the rapids of the Shire to a point whence the steamer *Ilala* runs to the new colony.

In connection with the remarks of Mr. Cotterill it may be stated that the transport of slaves by sea is being rapidly crushed out by the exertions of the British fleet engaged in that service on the east coast of Africa. During the last half of 1877 only nineteen slaves were captured, while in the previous six months the number was 263. Two years ago the computed average of slaves introduced into Pemba amounted to 1000 a month, but not more than 800 are believed to have been landed during the last six months of 1877. The caravans sent down to the coast are very small; many were captured and others returned to the interior, no market being found for them.

A meeting of geographers and telegraph engineers was

recently held in London to consider the connection of the Egyptian telegraph lines now reaching Khartum with those existing at Kimberley in the extreme south of Africa. The Central African Telegraph Company are already making arrangements to run a line from the Transvaal to Zanzibar.

OBITUARY.—Dr. August Heinrich Petermann died at Gotha, on the 26th of September. This very eminent geographer was born at Bleicherode, a village of Prussian Saxony, April 18, 1822. Educated at the Potsdam Geographical Institute, founded by Berghaus, the well known author of the "Physical Atlas," he afterwards became his secretary and assistant in preparing the maps for his great work, and also for that of Alexander von Humboldt on Central Asia. Removing to Edinburgh in 1845, and afterwards to London, he aided largely in the bringing out of Dr. A. K. Johnston's "Physical Atlas" and other geographical works, took an active part in the proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, and was instrumental in sending Drs. Barth, Overweg and Vogel to Central Africa. In 1854, he undertook the charge of the great geographical establishment of *Fustus Perthes*, at Gotha, where he remained until his death, founding and conducting with great success the *Mittheilungen aus Fustus Perthes' Geographischer Anstalt über Wichtige neue Erforschungen auf dem Gesamtgebiete der Geographie*, a monthly periodical whose volumes constitute an almost complete record of the progress of geographical discovery since that date, illustrated by a vast number of maps and plans. The first and second North German Expeditions to the North Pole were sent out under his direction and material support. The new edition of Stieler's "Hand-Atlas" (1875), contains many maps drawn by him, including the best, for their size, that have yet appeared of the western portion of the United States. The loss, at a comparatively early age, of one whose untiring industry and enthusiastic devotion has so greatly aided in extending the bounds of civilization, is deeply deplored.

#### MICROSCOPY.<sup>1</sup>

NATIONAL MICROSCOPICAL CONGRESS (*Continued*).—"The Migration of Leucocytes," by Dr. W. T. Belfield, of Chicago. In examining microscopic sections of the kidneys of persons who had died of pneumonia, the author had found the intertubular tissue crowded with an abundance of cells having all the appearance of white blood corpuscles. As other appearances of renal inflammation were wanting, and there had been no previous history of renal disease, it was judged that the retardation of the blood current incident to the pneumonia had furnished the occasion for the escape, from the capillaries, of the blood corpuscles by means of their amœboid movements. To test and study this fact of migration of leuco-

<sup>1</sup> This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.